

From: Barbara Menne <menneb1@outlook.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2022 4:23 PM
To: DES SBCC
Subject: Comment on Energy Code: Heat Pump Proposals

External Email

To: SBCC Council Chair

I urge you to adopt the proposed Energy Code updates and Heat Pump proposals, because moving away from methane gas in our buildings is key for addressing the various health and equity issues as well as my personal values.

There are so many reasons to revise building codes to be more sustainable. Here are a few that are particularly important to me:

- It is much **more cost effective to use best practices from the start** than to retrofit later, especially as buildings are such long lived assets. All-electric homes and buildings are a known model and a market-ready solution.
- Washington's [2021 State Energy Strategy](#) found that electrifying homes and buildings will be the **lowest-cost pathway to meeting the state's climate goals** of reducing emissions 95% from 1990 levels by 2050.
- Energy efficient homes are **more resilient in the face of climate change**, helping inhabitants with lower energy costs and burdens, and helping maintain habitable building temperatures during increasing extreme weather events.
- The **pollution of indoor air due to gas appliances** is becoming better known and people spend a majority of their time indoors, especially in our wet winters. **Health impacts** on children and adults include increased rates of asthma and heart failure, which means higher healthcare costs to society as well.
- Transitioning homes and buildings to clean electric heating, water heating and cooking can address **labor concerns** as well and **sustain a significant workforce over many years**. Jobs include the HVAC work — both in gas removal and electric appliance installs, service and maintenance — as well as construction jobs associated with building modifications; and electrical work associated with new renewable energy and grid infrastructure.
- **Local governments are tasked with helping residents deal with climate impacts**. Addressing fossil fuel use in homes is crucial for local governments to meet climate commitments, protect community health and safety, lower costs for builders and tenants, and create a green energy economy that will spur the creation of high-paid jobs.
- **Local governments need support from the State Building Code Council** to set uniform standards. Adopting stronger codes helps keep our construction workforce competitive.

- **Equity concerns** can be addressed with these code updates by lowering energy bills and lowering exposure to health and air pollution, indoor or outdoor, for lower-income households that can't afford conversions on their own.

Please support these building code updates as they ensure that we build new homes and buildings sustainably and responsibly while protecting public health and safety.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,
Barbara Menne
Tacoma, WA